

ION SANCHO
Supervisor of Elections
Leon County, Florida

Attachment # 2
Page 1 of 2

August 24, 2004

The Honorable Jane G. Sauls
Chairman, Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Leon County Courthouse
301 South Monroe Street, Suite 503
Tallahassee, FL 32301

RE: Supplemental Budget Request

Dear Chairman Sauls:

As a member of the 2004 Elections Canvassing Board you are aware of some of the many changes to the Elections Statutes made by the 2004 Legislature. Those changes and changes to other parts of the Election Statutes have added additional costs to the operation of this office not anticipated during the 2004 budget process. These include:

- Early Voting, this was extended to two full weeks with sessions required on each of the included weekends, estimated additional cost \$10,000.
- Absentee/Mail Ballot & Provisional Ballots, requirements for acceptance were changed and all new envelopes had to be designed and printed, estimated cost \$8,000.
- Changes to notification of voters, several categories concerning registration and removal from voter rolls now require notification, some by certified mail. This has increased printing and postage costs, added to this the U.S. Postal Service has denied the use of non-profit status for certain items previously allowed, estimated additional cost \$20,000.
- In addition, a large number of initiative and candidate petitions along with increased voter registration activity required the hiring of temporary and OPS staff earlier than anticipated and at a higher hourly rate, estimated additional cost \$46,000.

All salary contingency funds, approximately \$30,000, will be shifted to defray part of these costs. Items not critical to the election process have been deferred or canceled including staff travel to the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Election Conference this past June. This office is a non-revenue generating office, however we have to date collected approximately \$25,000 in revenue for this fiscal year which has been deposited to the County General Fund. Every effort is being made to curb costs and yet, as I write this request, we anticipate that additional ballots may need to be ordered for the August 31st Primary Election as Mail Ballot and Early Voting turnout is running higher for a Primary Election than it has in the past. Additionally, on Monday, August 23rd, barely a week before the Primary Election, a polling site canceled use of its facility causing us to relocate the site which means yet another unanticipated mailing of notification and new Voter I.D. cards to all registered voters in the affected precinct.

Page 2 Supplemental Budget Request

Based on a projected cost analysis for the remainder of the fiscal year, which we have shared with the Office of Management and Budget, we anticipate that this office will need additional funding that should not exceed \$60,000. As always any funds left at the end of the fiscal year will be returned to the County General Fund. Our efforts to curb costs will continue and only necessary expenses will be incurred to insure that the citizens of Leon County are fairly served by this office.

We believe we have the best elections office in the state, run with the best voting equipment, thanks in part to the County Commission support through the years. Your approval of this request is greatly appreciated. As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Ion Sancho

Copy: To Members of the Leon County Board of Commissioners The Honorable Tony Grippa,
The Honorable Rudy Maloy, The Honorable Bill Proctor, The Honorable Bob Rackleff,
The Honorable Cliff Thaell, The Honorable Dan Winchester

Parvez Alam, County Administrator

Alan Rosenzweig, Director Office of Management and Budget